

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as set forth below. Citations to pages and line numbers in the specification are made with respect to the Substitute Specification submitted on March 1, 2010 in connection with this application.

Replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 on page 8 of the substitute specification with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~Figures 13A-13C~~ **13A-13B** illustrate synthesis of homotrifunctional molecules. The branched homotrifunctional molecules have the structure illustrated in **Figure 13A**, where the substituent X may be selected from the chemical moieties illustrated in ~~Figure 13B~~. **Figure [[13C]] 13B** illustrates a reaction scheme for synthesis of the homotrifunctional molecule illustrated in **Figure 13A**. --

Replace the paragraph beginning at line 2 on page 40 of the substitute specification (immediately beneath the subheading "Example 13: Synthesis of Homotrifunctional Molecules") with the following amended paragraph:

-- Branched homotrifunctional molecules having the structure illustrated in **Figure 13A**, wherein the X substituent may be selected from the chemical moieties illustrated in ~~Figure 13B~~ that figure, were synthesized according to the reaction scheme shown in **Figure [[13C]] 13B**. Such homotrifunctional molecules can simultaneously act linker(s) and spacer. --